

CHAPTER II

SIDNEY

IF questioning and argumentation about it
and about
were vital constituents in the mental life of the
unities,
nowhere were they so active and constant as in
the Metiopolis London, at that time, was still, so far as its
working population went, a Radical focus. The influence
of Fianus Place and John Stuart Mill lived on, in
countless Radical clubs. It was in London that Charles Booth
as canning out his enquiry in London that John Burns
and Tom Mann were preaching the New Unionism and
assailing the old Unions as mere "middle-class late-1
educing institutions"; there that H. M. Hyndman, in
his hock coat and immaculate tall hat, was
thundering at the Proletariat that they had nothing to lose but
their chains. Hyndman, of course, spoke as the high priest of
the Social Democratic Federation. The S. D. F. enjoyed
two distinct - tions. It was the earliest definitely Socialist
Society to be founded in England, since it was born in
1881. To work for and through it, William Morris
devoted some of the best years of his life. He did so because
the very intensity of his concern for aesthetic values
made him feel that society must be so re-organised as to
make them accessible to all men, or else it and they must
perish together. Convinced that only Socialism could give the
world the art that is the expression of man's joy in labour,
he loyally took his part in the donkey work of the only
body then

working for it He was compelled, later, to
quarrel with
the S D F partly because they stood for a
dogmatic